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LECTURE OUTLINE  
ELEMENTS OF MARXISM

A. Philosophy

1. Metaphysics: Materialism

- a. Ultimate reality is matter (in motion).
- b. Existence of matter precedes existence of mind.
- c. Matter exists objectively apart from our perception of it.
- d. Knowledge of the world difficult and complex, but not impossible.

2. Method: The Dialectic; development through conflict (Hegel).

- a. Unity of opposites.
- b. Transfer of quantity into quality.
- c. Negation of the negation.

3. Philosophy of History: Dialectical Materialism

- a. History is essentially the working out of physical forces through the dialectic process.
- b. The basic physical force in human life is production (Feuerbach).
- c. Elements, or forces of production:
  - (1) Man's labor and practical skill (labor power).
  - (2) Implements: tools and techniques (means of production).
- d. Activities and relations of production (SUBSTRUCTURE) determine all other human activities and relationships (SUPERSTRUCTURE).
- e. The production relations have always been relations of exploitation, ultimately dividing society into two groups, owners and non-owners of the means of production.
- f. The conflict of these two major groups is the CLASS STRUGGLE, and constitutes the dialectic of history.

B. Economic Theory

1. Surplus Value

- a. Admitting the class struggle, what is the nature of contemporary (capitalist) exploitation?
- b. The irreducible measure of value is labor (Riccardo).
- c. The owner deprives the laborer of a portion of his labor power by requiring him to work beyond the socially necessary limit.
- d. This margin of difference is the source of capitalist profit (SURPLUS VALUE).

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## 2. Development of Capitalism

- a. Concentration of more and better machinery by owners (CAPITALIST ACCUMULATION) makes live laborers increasingly less necessary, and forces them to compete for lower and lower wages (INCREASING MISERY OF THE PROLETARIAT). Social purchasing power inevitably lower and lower.
- b. "One capitalist kills many" through competition (CONCENTRATION OF CAPITAL); thus trusts, cartels, etc.
- c. Ultimate collapse after recurring crises.

## C. Political Theory

1. The state is the machinery by which the dominant class exploits the oppressed class.
2. Class conflict inevitably produces revolution.
3. After the proletarian revolution, no classes, therefore no state.

## D. Lenin's Contributions

1. The limited, disciplined party of professional revolutionaries.
2. Proletarian democracy not a majority rule.
3. Practical development of the dictatorship of the proletariat.
4. The imperialist stage of capitalism.

## E. Stalin's Contributions

1. The prolongation of the state after the revolution.
2. Socialism in one country.
3. Capitalist encirclement.

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